



Betty Grey Darby

January 4, 1945 - June 21, 2024

Betty Grey Darby left her body on June 21, 2024, through the portal of the Summer Solstice and the full Strawberry Moon. While she was known to be quiet and unassuming, she wasn't opposed to the occasional power move.

Betty Grey Forish was born on January 4, 1945 in the coal mining community of Clintwood, Virginia; the daughter of Agnes and Joseph Forish. She was small town famous for her skills as a baseball player, known for a throwing and batting arm that betrayed both her size and stature.

In response to widespread mining layoffs, her family relocated to Manassas, Virginia in 1959. She graduated from Osborn High School in 1963 and began working for the US Naval Department in Washington DC. In 1966 she met Donald Darby, who was instantly taken by Betty and her hunter green 1966 Oldsmobile 442. The two were married in 1967 and in 1971 she gave birth to their only child, Jodi.

Betty was known for her editing skills; her keen understanding of grammar and her infatigable ability to find spelling errors just about anywhere- cereal boxes, local newspapers, copies of Reader's Digest.

Through the years she quietly wrote poetry and prose, piling the finished pieces into an empty drawer in her bedroom. After years of accumulation, a

friend encouraged her to publish her work. The result was two books of poetry, *The Forgotten Drum* and *Soul Mining*.

Betty enjoyed writing, painting, gardening and cooking. She found a particular joy in growing and putting up food, canning pickles, pickling beets and making enormous batches of chow chow and mixed pickles. She took pride in everything she did; she was kind, gracious and paid close attention to the needs of others. She was an immaculate host, an incredible cook, a devoted mother, partner and daughter and the kind of person who would do just about anything for you. She shared whatever she had, and was unconditional in her generosity.

She is survived by her husband Donald Darby, daughter Jodi Darby and brothers Donald and Benny Forish.

At her request, there will be no funeral service.

Tribute Wall

TK

“ As someone who could also spot an errant comma a mile away, I can unequivocally say I've never met anyone like her before or since. I was at my poetry-writing zenith when she first introduced me to her work, and I always appreciated her honesty and kindness. One of a kind.

Tim Kreh - August 07, 2024 at 04:57 PM

KK

“ I was so sorry to hear of Betty's passing. She was such a dedicated employee and we spent a good deal of time together, at work and outside work. She was small in stature but had a great heart and a great sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family
- Kathy Kreh

Kathy Kreh - August 06, 2024 at 06:37 PM

SW

“ Rest in peace Betty. It was such an honor to have known and worked with you.

Suzanne M Williams - August 06, 2024 at 05:12 PM

TP

“ Tommy And Bonnie Pearson lit a candle in memory of Betty Grey Darby



Tommy and Bonnie Pearson - June 28, 2024 at 01:22 PM